

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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FOR PA

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TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS) UR
SUBJECT: SECVISIT: PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

REF: MOSCOW 7229

1. EMBOFFS CALLED ON INTOURIST (SIMCHENKO, HEAD OF PROTOCOL DIVISION) APRIL 11 TO INITIATE DISCUSSIONS RE ARRANGEMENTS AND ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PRESS.
 2. SIMCHENKO SHOWED US TELEGRAM FROM SIMIRO TRAVEL AGENCY LISTING SIXTEEN RPT SIXTEEN NEWSMEN PLANNING TO ACCOMPANY SECRETARY TO MOSCOW. GROUP INCLUDES: SCHWEID, ANDERSON, GWERTZMAN, MARDER, DUNSMORE, KALB, VALERIANI, TALBOTT, SULLIVAN, WILLEN, JOHNSTON, BACON, WALLACH, ANTEVIL, SOUTHERLAND AND TREWHITT. LACKING RESPONSE TO REFTTEL, WE ARE CONVEYING ABOVE LIST TO MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT AS PRELIMINARY RPT PRELIMINARY ROSTER OF THOSE ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY. REQUEST CONFIRMATION.
 3. SIMCHENKO STRESSED THAT OTHER JOURNALISTS SEEKING TO TRAVEL INDEPENDENTLY TO MOSCOW TO COVER VISIT SHOULD MAKE ALL ARRANGEMENTS THROUGH LOCAL AMERICAN EXPRESS OFFICES, CLEARLY SPECIFYING THAT THEY ARE COMING FOR SECVISIT.
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- SIMCHENKO ASKS THAT HE BE ADVISED IMMEDIATELY OF ANY SUCH CASES (DURING SECRETARY'S 1977 VISIT TO MOSCOW, NUMBER OF NEWSMEN COMING IN SEPARATELY ROUGHLY EQUALLED NUMBER ON SECRETARY'S AIRCRAFT). WE WILL ALSO PASS ALL NAMES TO MFA/PRESS FOR ACCREDITATION THIS END.
4. PRESS ARRANGEMENTS FOR VISIT SHOULD BE VIRTUAL CARBON

COPY OF THOSE ENCOUNTERED LAST YEAR. FACILITIES WILL BE SET UP IN HOTEL INTOURIST WHERE VISITING JOURNALISTS WILL BE HOUSED. PLAN HAVE (A) PRESS ROOM STAFFED BY EMBASSY PERSONNEL, (B) TELEX AND LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE SERVICES, (C) MFA PRESS DEPARTMENT AND INTOURIST OFFICES. BACKGROUND AND OTHER BRIEFINGS WILL MOST LIKELY BE HELD IN SECOND FLOOR ROOM (NOT SAME PLACE AS IN 1977). IDENTITY OF BRIEFING ROOM APPEARS TO DEPEND SOMEWHAT ON WHETHER TRAVELLING PRESS PAYS INTOURIST FOR PACKAGE WITH OR WITHOUT MEALS (IF WITH, THEN DINING ROOM SET ASIDE FOR PRESS WOULD DOUBLE AS BRIEFING FACILITY).

5. INTOURIST HAS QUOTED RATE TO SIMIRO TRAVEL AGENCY OF APPROXIMATELY 90 RPT 90 RUBLES PER DAY (THIS TRANSLATES INTO ABOUT DOLLARS 131 AT PRESENT EXCHANGE RATE). THIS RATE, ACCORDING TO SIMCHENKO, IS WITHOUT RPT WITHOUT MEALS AND FIRST-DAY "GET-ACQUAINTED PARTY". SIMIRO, IN TELEGRAM SHOWN TO EMBOFFS, REQUESTED ADDITION OF "GET-ACQUAINTED PARTY" TO PACKAGE. SIMCHENKO SAID HE WOULD PROPOSE TO SIMIRO PACKAGE ALSO INCLUDING TWO RPT TWO MEALS PER DAY (BREAKFAST AND ONE OTHER), WHICH WOULD UP THE TOTAL PRICE. WHEN EMBOFFS GASPED AT MENTION OF BASIC 90 RUBLE FIGURE (WHICH REPRESENTS DOLLAR INCREASE OF ALMOST 30 OVER LAST YEAR'S RATE WHICH INCLUDED THREE MEALS), SIMCHENKO LAMELY ATTRIBUTED INCREASE TO "ADJUSTMENT TO WORLD RATES" AND UPWARD REVISIONS IN BASIC UNCLASSIFIED

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INTOURIST CHARGES FOR CARS AND INTERPRETERS (THIS YEAR'S PACKAGE, LIKE LAST YEAR'S, INCLUDES INTERPRETER SERVICES AND ONE CAR PER TWO JOURNALISTS DAILY FROM 09:00 TO 23:00).

6. SINCE SIMIRO AND INTOURIST ARE IN DIRECT COMMUNICATION, SUGGEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE TRAVELLING PRESS TO HAVE SIMIRO PRESSURE INTOURIST FOR BETTER DEAL, WHICH WE WOULD SUPPORT FROM THIS END. LIKELY POSSIBILITY MIGHT BE FOR INCLUSION OF FIRST-DAY GET-TOGETHER AND ONE OR TWO MEALS DAILY AT BASIC 90-RUBLE PRICE. IF PRESS DOES NOT WANT MEALS (ALTHOUGH WITH CHANGEABLE VISIT SCHEDULE, GUARANTEED FOOD AT ADJUSTABLE TIME MIGHT BE WORTHWHILE), SIMIRO MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET INTOURIST TO SHAVE OFF A FEW RUBLES. TOON

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